

AF/1775



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HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY: Genie Conte

Date: March 26, 2004

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Patent Application of:	:	
Nanning J. Arfsten et al.	:	
	:	
Conf. No.: 8672	:	Group Art Unit: 1775
	:	
Appln. No.: 09/437,948	:	Examiner: Jennifer McNeil
	:	
Filing Date: November 10, 1999	:	Attorney Docket No.: 275-3
	:	
Title:	:	
NIOBIUM OXIDE-BASED LAYERS FOR THIN FILM OPTICAL COATINGS AND PROCESSES FOR PRODUCING THE SAME		

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated December 29, 2003 (Paper No. 27). This response is being timely filed by March 29, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application, without prejudice, as follows: